

CLASSIFICATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 23 JAN 52

SUBJECT Popular Reaction to Communist
Regime

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
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25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

1. The Bulgarian government is levying such high production quotas that the peasants in almost all cases are unable to meet them. It is not uncommon for government agencies to levy butter and milk quotas on non-productive cows, or to levy 50 kilogram pork quotas on farmers who have no pigs. Most of these levies are in the form of promissory contracts against future production, signed by the farmer under duress.
2. Government allotments of food and clothing are extremely poor in quality and are inadequate even for the bare necessities of the peasants. Communist Party members are the only ones who benefit to any degree. In the free stores excellent cloth is displayed, but the people do not have the money necessary to purchase such cloth.
3. The export of all types of produce to the USSR has been felt to an extremely high degree by the peasants. Reaction to this export was expressed by a peasant who stated, "Russia must be an awfully poor country."
4. The production of the TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Labor Farm) is at an extremely low level. Members have shown no desire to work. This lack of interest and production has brought about a new regulation according to which farmer members are paid on a piece work basis rather than a daily wage. The farmers comment that this is exactly the point criticized by Marx as black exploitation of the workers by the bourgeoisie.
5. The average inhabitant of Bulgaria is undergoing a complete moral decomposition, which extends even into the ranks of the Communist Party. There are large numbers of individuals who have joined the Party either for small gains in food allowances or to avoid further persecution by the various police organizations. Many of these passive members of the Communist Party are those who are to fight for the overthrow of the

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 2 -

of the Bulgarian Army and the high caliber and morale of the troops.

7. Large-scale artillery maneuvers and firing practice have led the people to believe that the Soviet system of massed artillery is being applied to the Bulgarian Army.
8. Bulgarian troops are undergoing training with all types of Soviet weapons. They are also receiving a high degree of security indoctrination and are under strict control of officers and non-commissioned officers.
9. The people of southeast Bulgaria believe that military action is being prepared against Yugoslavia since within their area only defensive measures and defensive training have been instituted. Indications are that the north bank of the Arda River will be used as the defense line.
10. The local population has come to the conclusion that only a war will free them from Communism and they hope the conflict will begin immediately. In southeast Bulgaria a great majority of the peasants are ready to make the sacrifices that a war demands in order to remove the Communist terror. They regard any postponement of the conflict by the Western Powers as a prolongation of their misery, and with each passing day their despondency grows greater.
11. The failure of the Democratic Bloc, and the arrest of most of their people and contacts has plunged southeast Bulgaria into black despair since the population was ready to receive any such organization which could help them prepare for revolt. The effect has been to convince the peasantry that the Western Powers are incapable of planning a good underground resistance movement, ~~that Communist pharisees~~ that Communist police organs are infallible.

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